

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14

AID-20 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 140540Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6101

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

CJCS

COMUSSAG

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6712

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: CONSCRIPTION UPDATE

REF.: PHNOM PENH 6397

1. SUMMARY. PHNOM PENH'S CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT MACHINERY CONTINUED TO SHOW IMPROVED EFFICIENCY, PRODUCING 674 MEN DURING A SHORT 5-1/2 DAY WORK WEEK. THE DRAFT DODGER/DESERTERROUND-UP ALSO SHOWED GOOD RESULTS IN ITS FIRST WEEK OF RESUMED OPERATIONS. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, IN HIS NEW ROLE AS OVERALL MANAGER OF NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION, HAD A SECOND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEW WITH LOWER ECHELON OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO REVITALIZE THE RECRUITMENT/CONSCRIPTION MACHINERY.END SUMMARY.

2. CITY DISTRICTS SENT DRAFT NOTICES OUT AT A REDUCED RATE OF 300 PER DAY DURING THE PERIOD MAY 6-12, BFUAE OF A MAY 10 HOLIDAY AND A CITY-WIDE CONSCRIPTION MEETING ON MAY 7 WHICH CALLED OFFICIALS AWAY FROM THEIR DUTIES FOR AN
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ENTIRE AFTERNOON. ALL 674 ACCESSIONS DURING THE PERIOD WERE

FROM PHNOM PENH. TO SPARK THE WEEK'S PERFORMANCE, THE CAPITAL INDUCTED 238 DRAFTEES, THE LARGEST NUMBER SINCE EARLY NOVEMBER, 1973. TOTAL FIGURES OVER 213 DAYS OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN SHOW THAT PHNOM PENH HAS SUPPLIED 19,738 OF 32,297 MEN RECRUITED COUNTRY-WIDE.

3. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ FOLLOWED HIS MAY 2 GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION AND THE DRAFT WITH A SECOND WORKING MEETING ON MAY 7 THAT SOUGHT IDEAS FROM ABOUT 500 OFFICIALS WORKING IN THE VARIOUS ECHELONS OF THE CAPITAL'S CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT MACHINERY. THE MEETING PRODUCED A CONSENSUS THAT OFFICIALS MUST TIGHTEN DRAFT ENFORCEMENT AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. THE RECEPTION CENTER IS TO STAY OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO RECEIVE ARRESTED DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS. IN ADDITION, THE DRAFT BOARDS LOCATED AT THE CAPITAL'S EIGHT WARDS WERE MOVED TO THE RECEPTION CENTER TO AFFORD BETTER CONTROL OVER DEFERMENTS. (COMMENT: THIS MOVE IS DESIGNED TO CUT DOWN ON THE BOARDS' REPORTED LAXITY AND TENDENCY TO ACCEPT BRIBES FOR DEFERMENTS.)

B. THE BUDDHIST SUPREME PATRIARCHS WERE ASKED NOT TO ACCEPT DRAFTABLE YOUNG MEN'S REQUESTS TO JOIN MONASTERIES. NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION ADVISOR UNG MUNG TOLD US MAY 13 THAT THE SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE LARGEST SECT (MOHANIKAY) AGREED THAT HIS WATS WILL ACCEPT WITHIN THE 18-35 AGE GROUP ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE FUNILLED THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATION. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS DECISION LEAVES A LOOPHOLE FOR 16-17 YEAR-OLDS TO TAKE THE CLOTH AND SIT THE WAR OUT, IT IS PROBABLY MORE THAN THE GOVERNMENT HOPED FOR, AND A CONSIDERABLE CONCESSION ON THE PATRIARCH'S PART.

4. MIXED TEAMS RESUMED THE DRAFT DODGER/DESERTER ROUND-UP BEGINNING MAY 6. BY MAY 12 THEY HAD NETTED 46 DESERTERS AND 270 DRAFT DODGERS. TEAMS IN PHNOM PENH'S LARGEST WARD WERE MOST ACTIVE, ACCORDING TO THE MIXED TEAM COMMANDER. THEIR ACTIVITIES MAY DISCOURAGE WOULD-BE DRAFT DODGERS AND ENSURE A BETTER RESPONSE TO DRAFT CALLS.
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